

## Budget Cuts to DMHAS

Hello friends and members of the appropriations committee. Thank you for allowing me to speak today on these very important issues.

We are pleased this proposed budget calls for an INCREASE in support for IN HOME and COMMUNITY-BASED services and also to BRAIN INJURY PLACEMENTS as well as help for ADOLESCENT and EARLY ADULT PATIENTS.

This plan reduces services for LEGAL AID SERVICES and TESTING, including eliminating \$1.3 million for research at the **Yale-affiliated Connecticut mental health center.**

These cuts will seriously effect the legal services ability to provide mentally disabled individuals and their families, with legal representation needed to stay in our homes and get the much needed care they provide.

CLRP didn't count on their budget being cut - **elimination of a significant portion of its state funding.** These cuts will not only limit or stop clients new and old from getting appropriate help but also cause a loss in jobs. **Case loads will double per worker for those jobs NOT lost.**

Law makers need to re-examine Connecticut's **entire tax structure as a source of revenue.**

- **Governor Malloy increased sales tax.**
- **Increased sales tax for people making \$100,000. a year.**
- **Taxed the places that play music.**
- **Tax increase on yarn**

He did however, **remove** tax on exemptions on expensive clothing and footwear.

Earlier he made it easier to get alcohol by lowering the prices of alcohol, liquor store owners can now own 6 stores and sale alcohol on Sundays.

### **How is this improving the states mental health system?**

**Second Chance Society** - initiative to regenerate inmates into society will be effected as well as non profits who provide health and substance abuse services for our Connecticut residents.

### **DMHAS MISSION STATEMENT**

**To improve** the quality of life of the people of Connecticut by **PROVIDING an integrated network** of comprehensive effective and efficient mental health and addiction services that foster self sufficiency,dignity and respect.

The department also funds and monitors more than 170 community based substance abuse treatment programs.

Operates **ONLY THREE** inpatient state treatment facilities.  
(*Blue Hills Hospital, Connecticut Valley Hospital and Greater Bridgeport Community Mental Health Center*).

Governor Malloy also had physical disabilities as a child, that he was able to work thru.

He also has a degree of dyslexia, **a disability** he has been fortunate enough to find his way around.

Governor Malloy and Lt. Gov. Nancy Wyman together helped the uninsured population of Connecticut, obtain quality, affordable healthcare, through the states health care exchange.

Other states asked how they were able to do this **-cutting our states uninsured rate in half**.

Connecticut's health care exchange is helping other states duplicate this..(that's something to be proud of).

Are we now going to cause other states to **fail**.

**PERSONALLY:**

**I have Multiple Sclerosis, Fibromyalgia, Arthritis and Mental Disabilities.**

I have needed to use many of the DMHAS programs to help me socially and financially to sustain an ability to interact with the world. I tend to be introverted, where I was once very extraverted.

Thank you again

Ms. Deni Young